

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bartholomew County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Corner, Third and Washington Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

VICINITY OF

Ninth

STATE

Indiana

CODE

018

COUNTY

Bartholomew

CODE

005

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Bartholomew County

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse, Third and Washington Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

VICINITY OF

STATE

Indiana

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Third and Washington Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Indiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Columbus-Bartholomew County Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Preserve to Enjoy, Inc. 524 3rd St.

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Indiana

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bartholomew County Courthouse is the only surviving example of the French Second Empire style in the county. It was designed by noted Indiana architect Isaac Hodgson of Indianapolis and completed in 1874.

The building is an ell-shaped mall, with the intersection of its legs at the northeast corner of Washington and Third Streets. The extreme ends of the wings extend behind to the south and west; the apsis thus formed on the south-west contains a grandstaircase. The bays at the ends of the wings are projected to form corner pavilions, as are those at the intersection of the wings, which form the base of the clocktower. All elements are crowned by steeply inclined mansard roofs; those of the corner pavilions and tower additionally have roof curbs exaggerated into modillionated cornices with panelled friezework and elaborate roof cresting.

The red pressed brick walls are trimmed in white limestone and stand on a plinth and watertable of smooth rusticated blue limestone. This polychrome effect is used to emphasize openings and horizontals, since the lines of the sills, spandrels, sash, and arch imposts are continued as ashlar coursing set flush with the face brick and continuous over openings. The same device is used to emphasize vertical lines on the corner pavilions and the slightly projecting central bay of the east elevation, each of which have smooth rusticated quoins and central window bays enframed by pilasters and variously capped with pediments or round arches with panelled spandrels. On the main (east) elevation, the entrance is within an arcade of segmental arches let into the recess formed by the corner pavilions; the arches and the Corinthian columns from which they directly spring, as well as the open balustrade above, are all constructed of limestone. The slightly projecting central bay behind this arcade extends above the principal cornice line and is capped with a broken pediment flanked by finials. The central window of the bay is enframed by pilasters and volute buttresses and surmounted by a commemorative inscription whose segmental cap-mould breaks the pediment.

On the north elevation, a centrally placed entrance is beneath a distyle Corinthian portico whose design echoes the arcade on the east facade. Directly above the portico is a round-arched window bay whose panelled surround matches that of the central bay of the east facade.

The clocktower is the other principal feature of the exterior; it extends three stories above the cornice line. The elevations of the fourth and fifth floor levels are composed of a central elongated window bay, with a panelled apron, narrow sidelights separated from the bay by the enframing pilasters, and a round arch at the top with panelled spandrel and flanking oculi. On the sixth level each facade has five arched, louvred openings for the belfry, and is surmounted by a broad Corinthian entablature. Above this there is a broad curb at the base of the vertically elongated mansard. The clockfaces above are iron framings with white glass infill; they are mounted directly onto the roofing, with decorative surrounds.

The appearance of the roofline has been altered substantially. In 1953 the original slate roof was replaced with the present standing-seam copper; at that time dormers and cresting were also removed. The wrought iron cresting has since been reproduced with an alloy facsimile.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1871-74

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Isaac Hodgson

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bartholomew County Courthouse is significant because of its rare Second Empire design, and because of its architect, Isaac Hodgson.

Few Second Empire style courthouses were built in Indiana; still fewer survive. Of these the Bartholomew County Courthouse is the most elaborate, despite the loss of some of its roofline features. Designed in 1871 by architect, Isaac Hodgson, the building was three years in construction, and was dedicated in December, 1874. One speaker at the dedication praised the building in this way:

"This elegant and comodious structure affords undoubted evidence of the wealth, energy and public spirit of the people of Bartholomew County....

The erection of this building is an evidence of the growth and prosperity of the county and the gigantic strides it has taken for the advancement of intelligence and culture."

There is no building in Bartholomew County that can in any way equal the scale and sophistication of this Second Empire style courthouses. On a state level, no other Second Empire county courthouse can compare favorably with this structure.

The architect, Isaac Hodgson, was born in Ireland and came to America in 1848. By 1855 he was practicing architecture in Indianapolis. Hodgson secured many governmental contracts, designing no less than five courthouses in Indiana, including the Marion County Courthouse in Indianapolis, razed in 1962. Hodgson's plans for the Bartholomew County Courthouse were drawn in 1871, the year of the Chicago fire. The construction of the Courthouse utilizes steel and iron framing throughout, and is said to have been one of the first fireproof buildings in Indiana. Hodgson was one of the nine charter members of the Indiana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Since its completion in 1874, the structure has served as the center for political and governmental activities in Bartholomew County.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burns, Lee. Early Architects & Builders of Indiana.

Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1945.

Columbus, Indiana: A Look At Architecture. Columbus: Vistors Center, 1974

History of Bartholomew County, Indiana. Chicago: Brant and Fuller, 1888.

The Evening Republican, January 6, 1875 (reprint of article by Louisville Courier-Journal correspondent, O. O. Stealey)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 1/2 (67,500 sq. ft.-excluding the one quarter of the "public square" which holds the new jail).

QUADRANGLE NAME Columbus

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 593140 4339440

B         

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Northeast corner of lot 31 of Original Plat defined by a line running from a point 10' 6" west of the west curb of Washington St. and 11' south of the south curb of Third St., then south 152', then west 98', then north 39', then west 53', then north 113' to a concrete curb, then east 151'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE    CODE    COUNTY    CODE   

STATE    CODE    COUNTY    CODE   

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cheryl L. Griffith; Craig Leonard; and Cynthia Lynch, Director

ORGANIZATION

Preserve to Enjoy, Inc.

DATE

October 1, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

524 Third St.

TELEPHONE

(812) 372-2407

CITY OR TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Indiana 47201

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

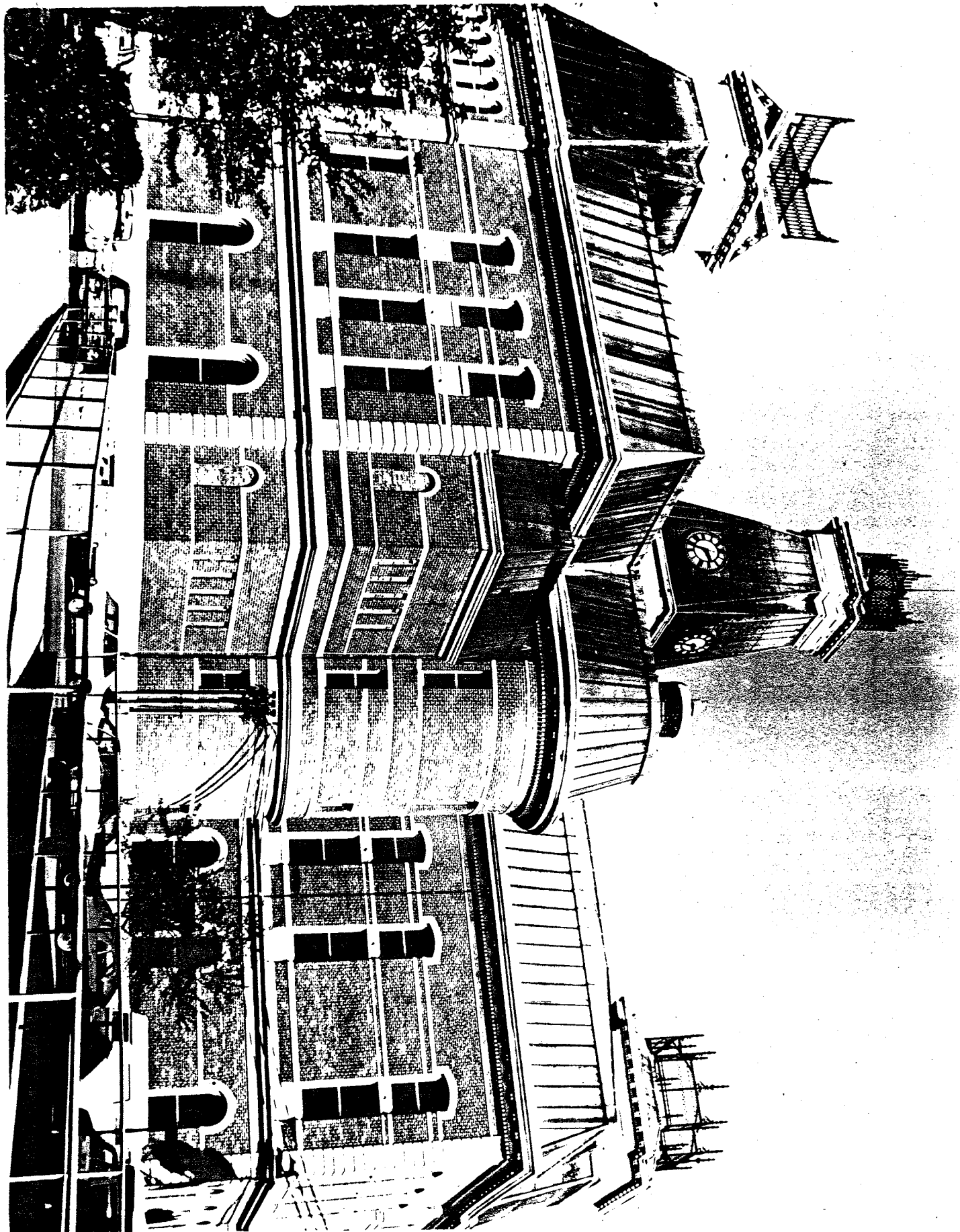
ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

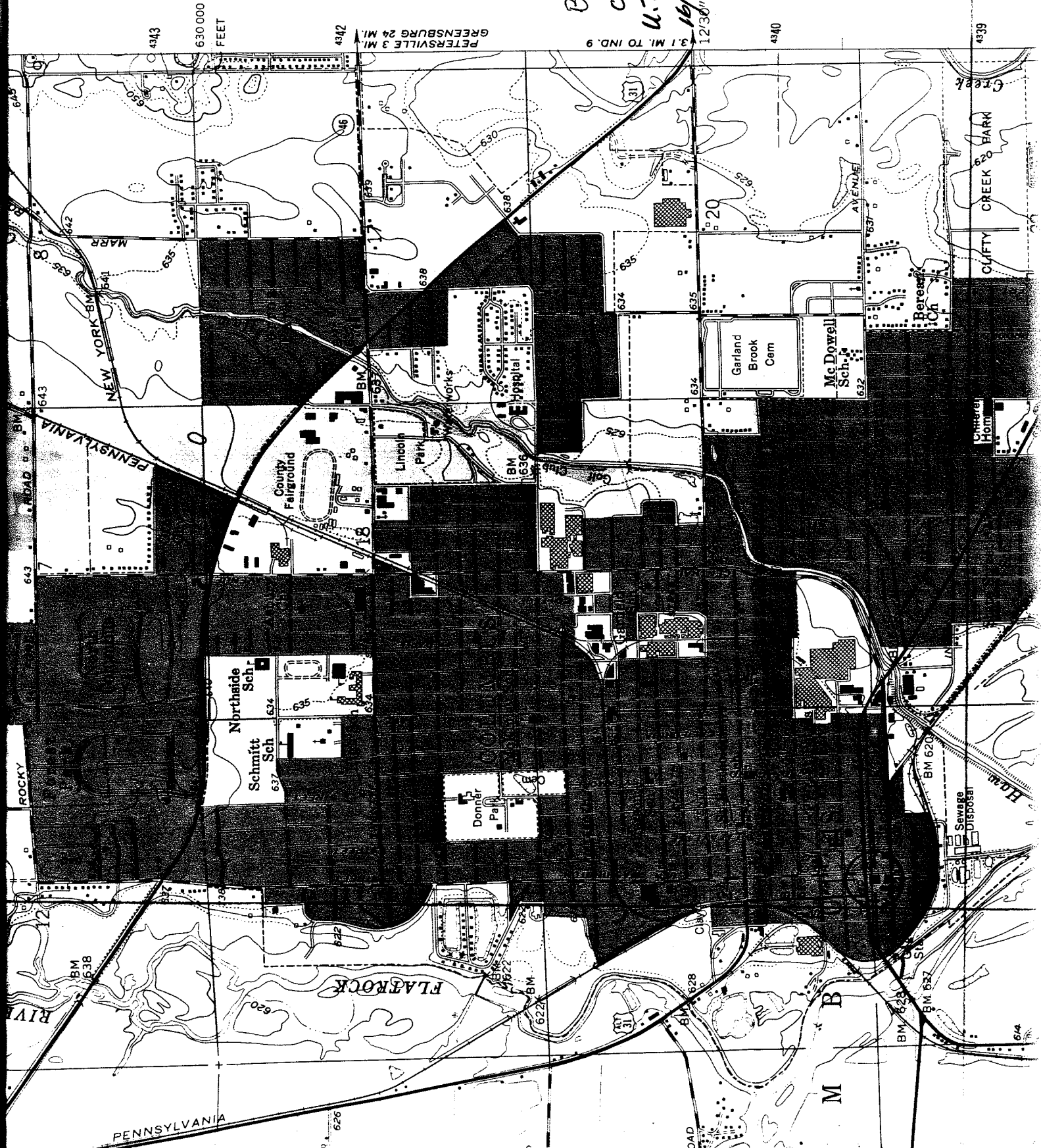








Bartholomew  
County Courthouse  
Columbus, Indiana  
U.T.M. References  
16/593140/433943





COLUMBUS QUADRANGLE  
INDIANA—BARTHOLOMEW CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NORTHCLIFF 2.7 MI.  
440 000 FEET

85°52'30"  
39°15'

3882 IV SE  
(HOPE)

